



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Personnel Accounting Progress from the Korean & Cold Wars **As of January 1, 2006**

Cold War Loss: On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two remains; 29 U.S. service members are still unaccounted for as a result of this incident.

Korean War Statistics: Total remains unaccounted-for **8108¹**
Total joint field activities (JFAs) completed: 1996 – present **33**

Category	Total	Identified
Remains recovered and repatriated through JFAs	229	24
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations, 1990 – 1994 ²	208	15
Remains disinterred from the “Punchbowl” Cemetery in Hawaii, 2003 - present	6	2
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in China	1	1
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in South Korea, since 1982	35	<u>5</u>
Total remains identified, 1982 – present		47

Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

- The three main pillars of the Korean War program are:
 - **Live-Sighting resolution.** Finding live Americans is the highest priority of our accounting process. DPMO, with the full support of the Intelligence Community, aggressively investigates all credible reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. Since 1995, more than 5,000 defectors from North Korea have been screened for information concerning Americans possibly living in the North. To date this effort has produced no useful information concerning live Americans. Most reports of live Americans in North Korea pertain to six known U.S. defectors. Of the six defectors, only one remains alive in North Korea. Four are reported to have died in the North, and one, Sergeant Jenkins, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.

¹ This is a working number from the Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) list.

² 208 boxes of remains received from DPRK unilateral operations; many remains were commingled.

- **Archival Research and Oral History.** DoD periodically conducts archival research and oral history programs in the U.S., North and South Korea, and China. These programs are designed to uncover information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build our knowledge base on Korean War loss incidents; gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements; and find materials and maps germane to missing personnel.
- **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North and South Korea.** JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations on the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. pays fair and reasonable expenses associated with the efforts to recover remains. The U.S. Government does not pay for remains or information.

History

- **1951-1955:** American graves registration teams searched South Korean battlefields for the remains of U.S. personnel lost during the war. North Korea returned several thousand remains in Operation GLORY in 1954. Approximately 867 remains were declared unknown. Of these:
 - 866 were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl)
 - One was interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery
- **1990:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated five remains through the United Nations Command (UNC).
- **1991:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated 11 remains through the UNC.
- **1992:** North Korea unilaterally recovered and repatriated 30 remains through the UNC.
- **1993-1994:** Following the signing of a UNC/Korea Peoples Army remains repatriation agreement, North Korea returned 162 remains; 148 in 1993, and 14 in 1994.
- **1994:** Kim Il Sung accepted former President Carter's proposal to conduct JFAs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to search for U.S. remains. Political differences postponed immediate implementation.
- **1996:**
 - U.S. – DPRK talked in New York City on beginning JFAs in North Korea.
 - Two JFAs were scheduled. One JFA was completed in July, which resulted in recovering one set of remains. A second JFA was cancelled due to tensions a North Korean submarine infiltration of South Korea generated.

- **1997:**
 - May: Talks in New York focused on restarting joint remains recovery operations, initiating archival reviews, and establishing contact with American defectors in North Korea.
 - Three JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of six remains.
 - December: Meetings in New York resulted in agreement to conduct five JFAs and one joint archival review during 1998.
- **1998:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 22 remains.
 - December: Both sides agreed in New York to increase the number of JFAs to six in 1999, and archival reviews to two.
- **1999:**
 - Six JFAs were scheduled. Three JFAs were completed, resulting in the recovery of 13 remains.
 - June: North Korea refused to repatriate four remains recovered during the second JFA through Panmunjom, the accepted procedure at that time. As a result of this action, DPMO canceled the next three JFAs.
 - October: U.S. and DPRK met in New York to discuss new repatriation procedures. As a result of those talks, the DASD for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs led a delegation to Pyongyang on October 25 to oversee the repatriation from Pyongyang directly to Japan of the four remains from the second JFA of 1999 and observe the start of the final JFA of the year.
 - December: Both sides met in Berlin. The DPRK explicitly linked future JFAs in North Korea to the U.S. Government's willingness to provide a large-scale assistance package. The U.S. rejected such linkage, and the talks ended without agreement.
- **2000:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 65 remains.
 - June: North Korea participated in negotiations in Malaysia without preconditions.
 - Secretary of State Albright met with DPRK Vice Minister, Marshal Jo Myong Nok when he visited the U.S. She also met DPRK Chairman Kim Jong Il on her visit to Pyongyang later in October. During both meetings Secretary Albright emphasized the importance of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all missing American servicemen from the Korean War. She pointed out that our hard work was the bright spot in U.S. – DPRK bilateral relations.

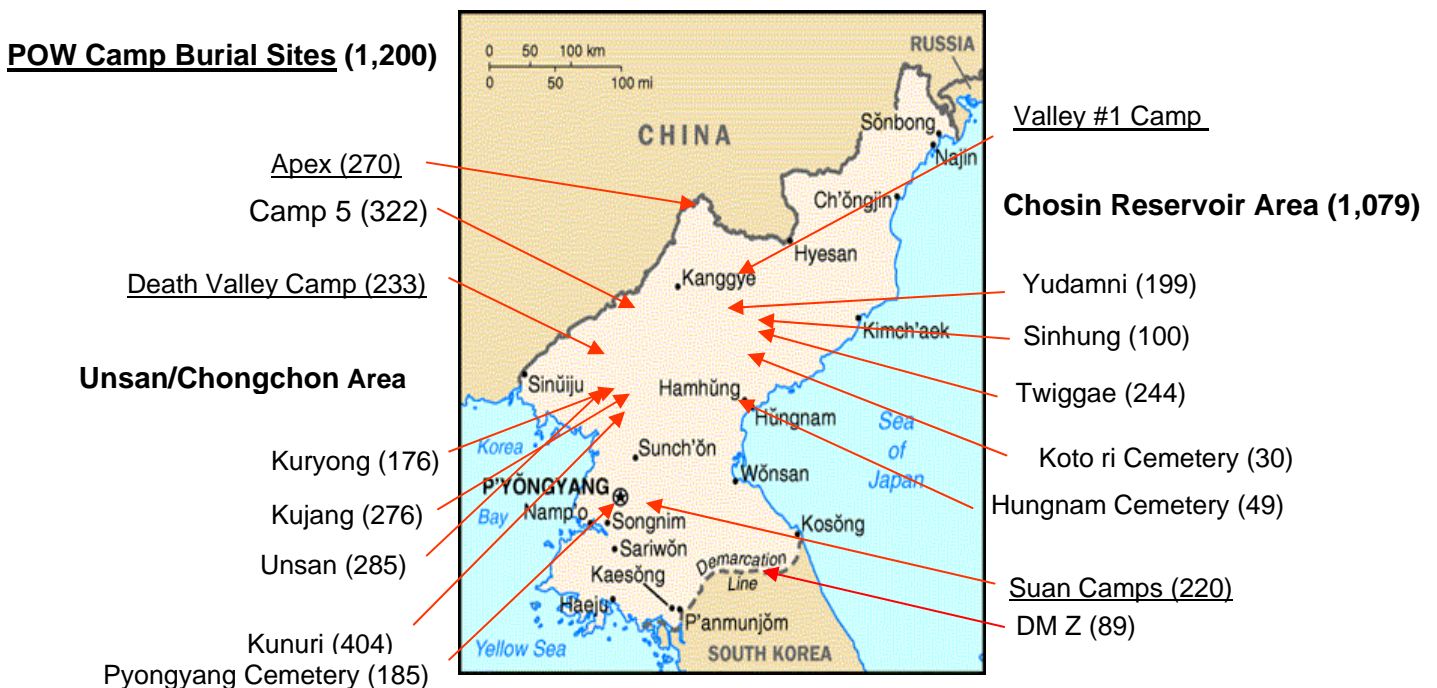
- December: Both sides met again in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to discuss operations in 2001, and agreed to conduct five JFAs at two separate locations in North Korea.
- **2001:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 44 remains.
 - May – August: One U.S. team continued work in the Kujang area. A second team operated in the Kae’chon City area (known as “The Gauntlet” during the Korean War).
 - September – November: The second team moved to the Changjin (Chosin) Reservoir.
- **2002:**
 - Three JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 26 remains.
 - January: The U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok, January 23-26, to discuss operations for 2002. The talks stalled over compensation issues.
 - June: Talks resumed in Bangkok.
 - ✓ The DPRK agreed to three JFAs with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
 - ✓ The DPRK agreed to allow a U.S. team to survey sites on the western shores of the Chosin Reservoir during the final JFA in preparation for future joint operations.
 - September: DPMO sponsored a visit to North Korea by representatives of U.S. veterans and family groups to show them the extent of current recovery operations and demonstrate to the North Koreans the importance of these operations to the U.S. Government and the American public.
 - October 6, 2002: The DASD for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, met with his North Korean counterpart, Representative of the Korean People’s Army Liaison Mission to Panmunjom, in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss operational issues for future JFA talks. The meeting resulted in an agreement-in-principle to continue dialogue on remains recovery issues.
- **2003:**
 - Two JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of eight remains.
 - January-June 2003: The DPRK did not respond to DPMO’s proposal for 2003 JFA talks.
 - July: U.S. – DPRK talks resumed in Bangkok. Both sides agreed to conduct JFAs in North Korea from August through October.

- ✓ The DPRK agreed to two JFAs in 2003 with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties.
- ✓ The U.S. and DPRK agreed to enhance safety measures during 2003 operations and meet again in Bangkok in November.
- November: The U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss JFAs for 2004, agreeing to:
 - ✓ Two periods of investigative and joint advance work to prepare for JFAs, and
 - ✓ Five JFAs in two locations: Unsan County and Changjin County (Chosin-east side).
- **2004:**
 - Five JFAs were scheduled and completed, resulting in the recovery of 39 remains.
 - February: U.S. and DPRK officials met in Bangkok to discuss two unresolved issues from the November 2003 talks: establishing a DPRK point of contact to help resolve credible live sighting reports; and overland logistics resupply and repatriation options. Both sides agreed:
 - ✓ To transport all supplies and equipment over-ground to support 2004 JFAs;
 - ✓ To transport all JFA teams, equipment, and remains recovered during each JFA across the DMZ at the end of each operation; and
 - ✓ That the DPRK delegation would present to their senior leaders a proposal to establish a single point of contact to resolve reports of Americans living in North Korea.
 - April: Teams deployed to construct base camps at Unsan and Chosin Reservoir sites.
 - November: U.S. and DPRK met in Bangkok to discuss 2005 JFAs, agreeing to the following:
 - ✓ One period of joint advance work in April to prepare for JFAs;
 - ✓ Five JFAs to take place at Unsan County and Changjin County, the operation in Changjin County to include operations on both the east side and west side of the Chosin Reservoir.
 - ✓ One period of joint investigative work to be conducted during JFA 39 (third JFA of 2005).
- **2005:**
 - April – May: One of the five scheduled JFAs was completed before the U.S. Government temporarily suspended remains recovery operations in the DPRK. The one JFA resulted in the recovery of five possible U.S. remains.
 - May 25: U. S. announced temporary suspension of JFAs in North Korea.

- September: JPAC deployed a 10-person team to the Republic of Korea (ROK) to investigate and excavate possible burial sites of American servicemen.
- ✓ The team excavated four sites where American service members were purportedly buried during the war. Three sites yielded possible human remains: Kyonggi Province within eyesight of the Demilitarized Zone; Hill 209, and the Inchon area. The last site requires further excavation during the next operation in South Korea.
- ✓ Another team followed up leads relating to at least 24 cases throughout the ROK.
- ✓ JPAC will meet with ROK officials in December to discuss 2006 operations in South Korea.

Associated Developments with China: May – June 2004: JPAC excavated a Korean War F-86 crash site in Dandong, China just north of the Yalu River, recovering aircraft wreckage and remains. JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory identified the remains as those of Air Force Captain Troy Cope, shot down by MIG aircraft during aerial combat on September 16, 1952. The family buried Captain Cope in Texas with full military honors on May 31, 2005. Please refer to the China fact sheet for additional developments associated with China.

Major Remains Concentrations



Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis